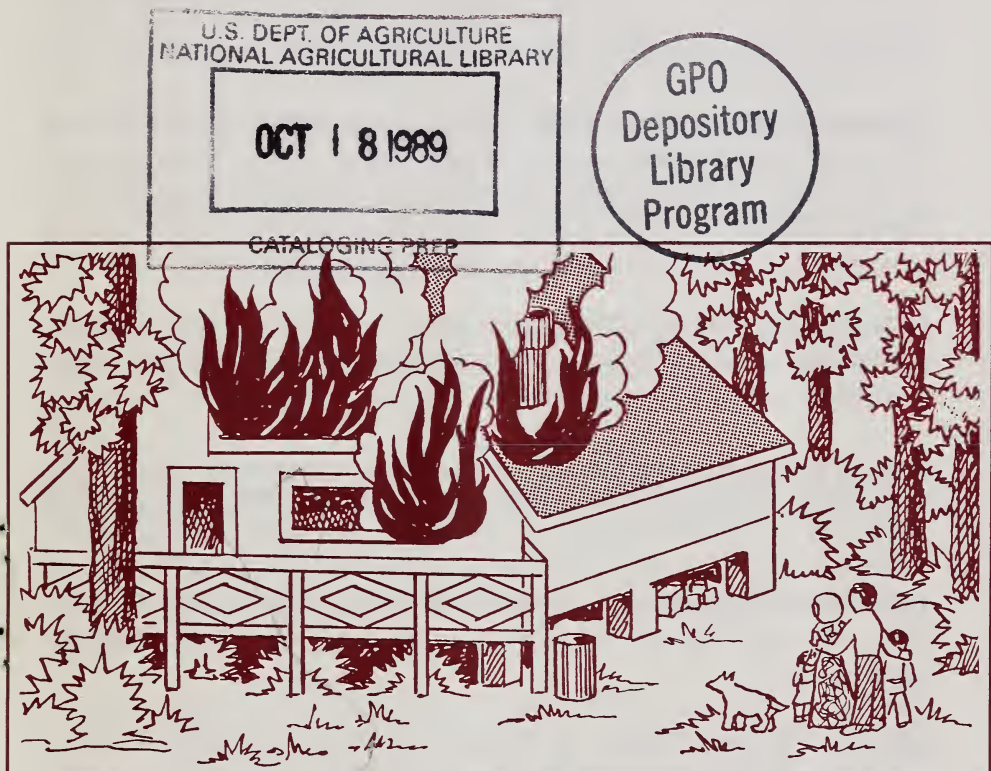


Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.

"It Can't Happen to My Home!"

Are You Sure?



Annually about 112,000 fires start on forest, brush and grasslands, burning 4.8 million acres, destroying countless structures and killing an average of 29 people.

United States
Department of
Agriculture

PREPARED BY
Forest
Service

Southwestern
Region

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIREPROOF YOUR HOUSE:

Protect the Roof — treat wood shingle roofs and siding with retardant chemicals. Have enough garden hose available to reach all parts of the roof. Clean gutters and roof of all needles and leaves.

Prevent Chimney and Flue Fires — check for accumulation of soot. Keep dampers in good repair. Put fires out in fireplaces *prior* to leaving home. Soak hot ashes in a covered metal container (see page 10). Have an adequate spark arrestor on your fireplace chimney (see page 7-8).

Prevent Attic Fires — install a fine metal screen over attic vents and louvers to prevent burning brands from entering the attic.

Check Overhanging Eaves — cover gaps between walls and the eaves to prevent entry of sparks from outside into the attic.

Clean Storage Areas — don't allow newspapers and rags to accumulate. Keep flammable liquids in unbreakable containers.

Remove Dead Limbs — from any trees adjacent to or overhanging your house or garage. They catch fire easily from sparks — as does *firewood*. Don't stack firewood under your porch or house or next to your house.

Enclose Open Decks and Under-Flooring — all open under-floor and over-hanging floor or deck area should be either enclosed to prevent embers from blowing under, or kept free of all inflammable material.

WHAT YOU CAN DO TO FIREPROOF YOUR PROPERTY:

Adequate Water Supply — and have sufficient hose, nozzles, and a pump or dependable, pressurized water system available.

Control Vegetation — remove dense fuels that burn rapidly. Cut small trees and brush. Leave only the widely-spaced larger trees. Develop a green lawn or rock garden for a space around the house, or mow the natural vegetation to keep it low. Do landscaping with both *fire protection* and *beauty* in mind. This has proven to be a very effective fire prevention measure.

Eliminate Illegal Dumps — garbage dumps are a common source of fires. Look over your area for such dumps and start action to clean them up. Haul garbage and trash to legal dumps.

Dispose of Debris — clean up inflammable debris, such as accumulated dead vegetation, in accordance with local regulations. Apply for burning permits and contact nearest fire control agencies *prior* to burning. An escaped fire can be costly to you!

Provide Access — to enable safe travel to and from your property. Open dead-end roads with short dirt connections to other roads. At least, get wide turn-around areas at the end of dead-end roads. It is difficult to get a firetruck to your home if the access roads are steep and narrow.

Build Fire Breaks — consider clearing a trail, at least 6 feet wide, near the outer edge of the place you plan to fireproof. This trail will slow down a running ground fire and make access easier for firefighters.

Barbecues and incinerators — clear an area of all flammable materials for at least 5 feet all around your barbecue or incinerator and have a metal screen over all open incinerators. Locate the barbecue or incinerator away from trees and at least thirty (30) feet from structures.

KEEP FIRE PREVENTION IN MIND

- Thin and prune trees.
- Mow grass and remove brush.
- Plant and maintain a green belt or lawn around the house.



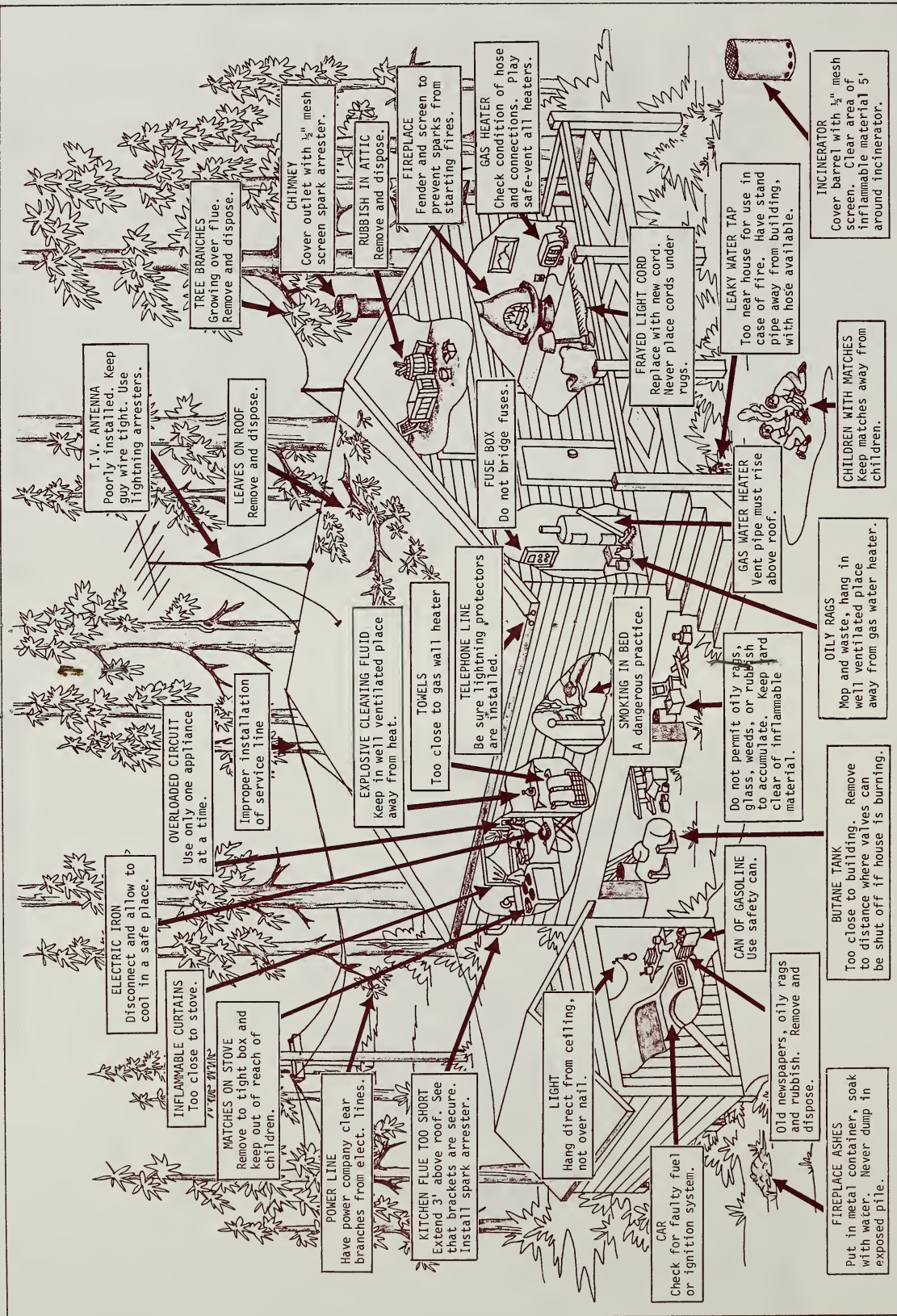
BEFORE

MIND WHEN LANDSCAPING

- Move firewood from house.
- Clean leaves from roof and rain gutter.
- Screen chimneys and incinerators.

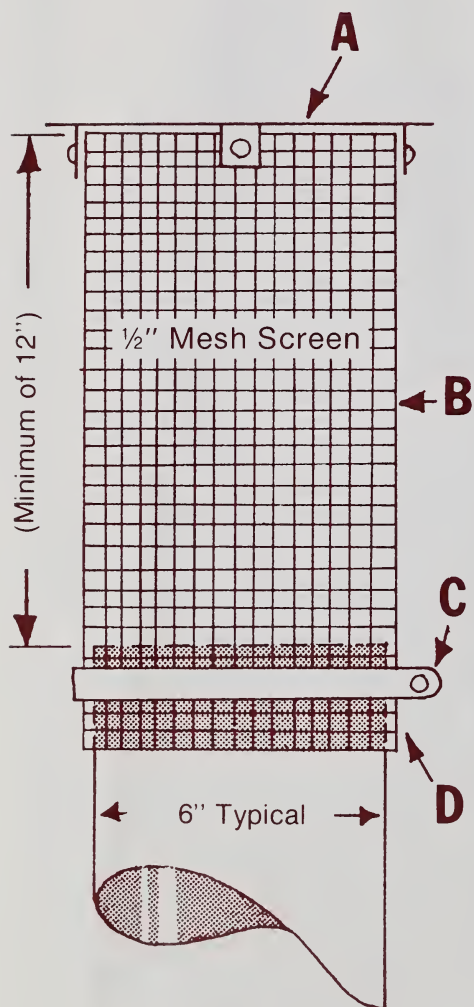


AFTER



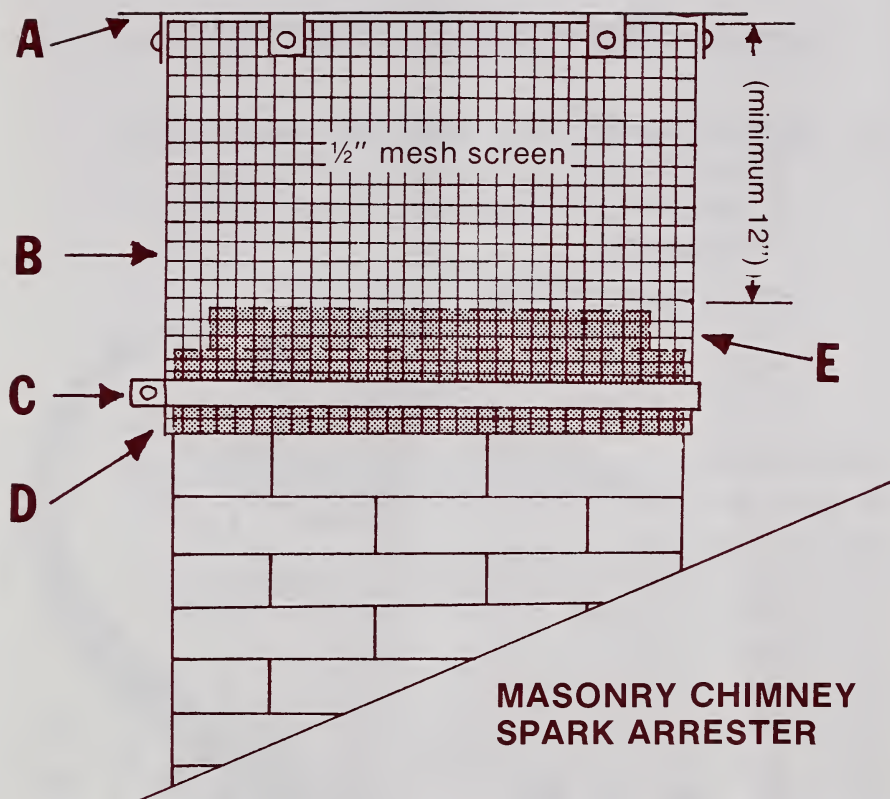
CHECK AND CORRECT EVERY HAZARD WITH EXTREME CARE

CHIMNEY SPARK ARRESTERS



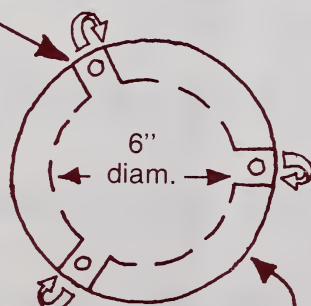
A	20 gauge galvanized sheet metal cap plate (Fasten to screen with stove bolts) Optional — fold screen to close up. Use 1/2 inch mesh max. heat-resistant, heavy mesh screen.
B	Lace or stitch seams with No. 14 galvanized steel wire. Seams can also be welded.
C	1/8" x 1" metal strap with 1/4" stove bolt.
D	Lap screen 3" over chimney.
E	For large chimneys, strengthen screen mesh box with angle iron in the inside corners.

METAL STOVEPIPE SPARK ARRESTER

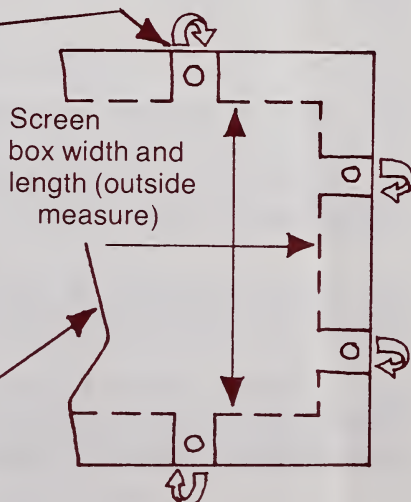


TYPICAL CAP PLATE CONSTRUCTION

Cut tabs, drill holes and bend tabs down



20 gauge sheet metal



TRASH BURNING TIPS

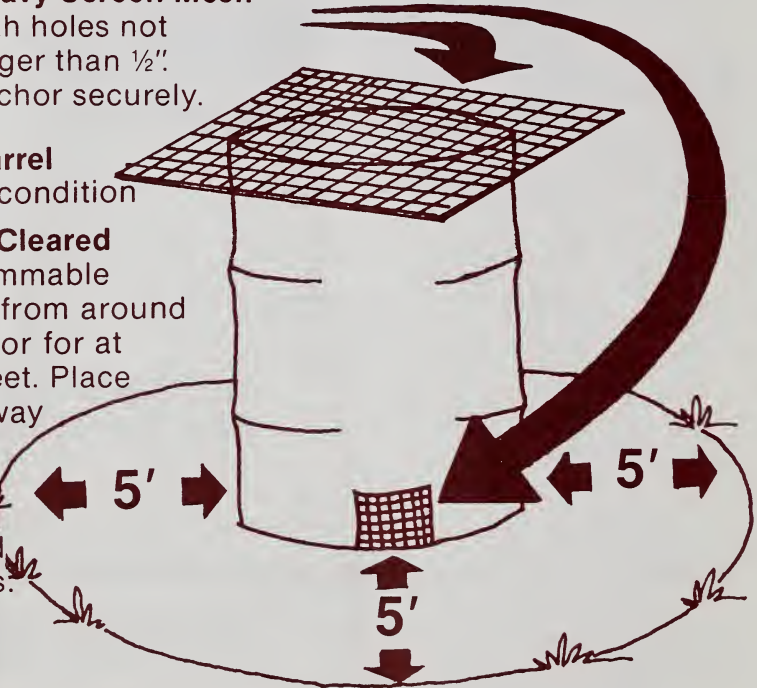
1. BURN TRASH IN A SAFE INCINERATOR.

Shown below is a barrel type incinerator, illustrating minimum fire safety requirements.

Heavy Screen Mesh
with holes not
larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ "
anchor securely.

Metal Barrel
in good condition

Ground Cleared
of all flammable
material from around
incinerator for at
least 5 feet. Place
barrel away from
trees
and
overhead
branches.



2. DON'T BURN ON WINDY DAYS.

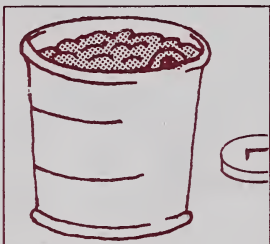
3. HAVE SOMEONE STAY WITH THE FIRE UNTIL IT IS COMPLETELY OUT.

4. HAVE WATER & SHOVEL READILY AVAILABLE IN CASE FIRE ESCAPES.

5. CHECK WITH LOCAL FIRE DEPT. AND HEALTH DEPT. BEFORE BURNING TO OBTAIN THE REQUIRED BURNING AND AIR QUALITY PERMITS.

SAFE DISPOSAL of FIREPLACE ASHES

1



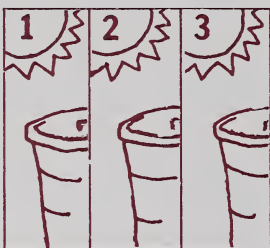
Place in covered metal container.

2



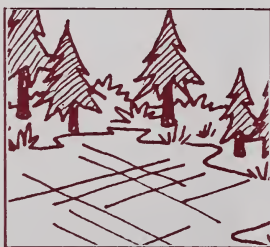
Soak with water.

3



Cover, let sit for 2-3 days before disposal. Be sure ashes are out-cold.

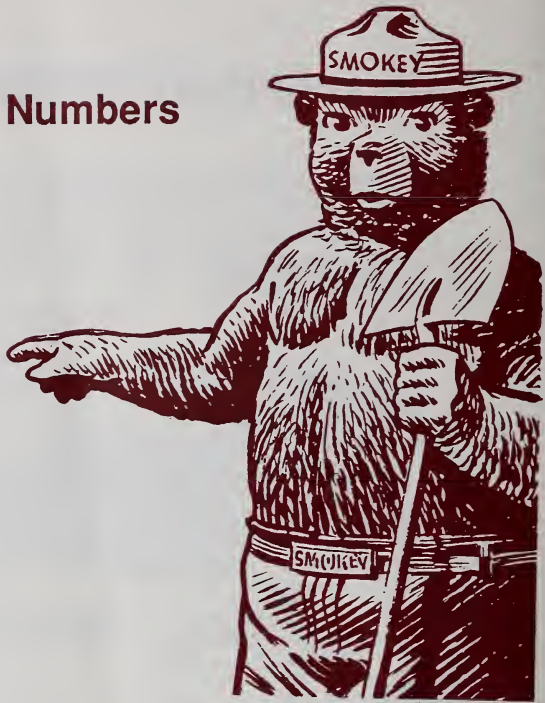
4



Dispose of cold ashes in cleared area or legal dump.

It's your responsibility to prevent fires!
If you don't, who will?

Emergency Phone Numbers



In case of fire call:

Fire Protection Agency _____

Fire Department _____

Police _____